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**Plymouth Colony**

**Pilgrim Fact Card 1**

**REASONS FOR LEAVING**

* King Henry VIII of England made himself the head of the new Church of England in 1534.
* Some English people did not like the new Church of England.
* They created a new church and they were called "Separatists."
* Some of the Separatists were treated poorly because of their beliefs.
* They moved to Holland to find religious freedom.
* Some Separatists settled in the town of Leiden (or Leyden) in Holland for the next 11 or 12 years.
* The Separatists decided to leave Holland because they had a hard time finding good jobs and they were afraid their children were losing their English ties.

**Pilgrim Fact Card 2**

**STARTING OVER, AGAIN**

* The Separatists wanted to start a colony in the northern part of Virginia Colony (near present day New York City). This was at the mouth of the Hudson River.
* The group had little money, but wanted to be able to worship freely in a colony in the New World.
* The Separatists (or colonists) joined with a group of investors to form a joint stock company.
* The investors provided the colonists with supplies and a way to get to the New World.
* The colonists agreed to send fish, timber and fur back to England for seven years to pay off their debts.

**Pilgrim Fact Card 3**

**THE VOYAGE TO A NEW LIFE**

* The colonists began their trip with two ships: the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell.*
* There were 102 passengers on the *Mayflower* and about 26 crew members.
* Some of the passengers were Separatists and they called themselves "Saints".
* The Separatists called the other passengers "Strangers".
* Nowadays, we refer to all of the passengers on the *Mayflower* as Pilgrims or colonists.
* There were many storms during the 66-day voyage.

**Pilgrim Fact Card 4**

**LAND IS SIGHTED!**

* The *Mayflower* reached Provincetown on November 11, 1620.
* The storms and dangerous rocky coasts forced the *Mayflower* to anchor in Cape Cod Bay (not at the mouth of the Hudson River as they had intended).
* There were many native tribes living in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island (24,000 people at the time the Pilgrims landed). They were part of the Wampanoag Nation.
* A brief fight occurred between a group of colonists and some Nauset Wampanoag. The Natives attacked the colonists because some of their tribe had been captured and sold into slavery in the past.
* The men signed the Mayflower Compact, which was an agreement on how the colony would be governed.
* Many passengers became sick and four of them died while the group tried to find a good place for their colony.

**Pilgrim Fact Card 5**

**PLYMOUTH, A NEW COLONY**

* The colonists, or Pilgrims, as they are commonly called, decided to settle in Plymouth.
* The Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth Harbor on December 16, 1620.
* The Patuxet Wampanoag had lived in Plymouth before the Pilgrims.
* About 2000 Patuxet died in a plague that occurred between 1616 and 1619. The plague was probably smallpox, brought to the New World by Europeans.
* Only one Patuxet, Squanto, did not die from the plague. He had been captured and sold into slavery in 1614 and was living in England when the rest of his tribe died.
* The Pilgrims found that the old Patuxet lands had many things they needed:

1. A good harbor
2. A clean supply of water (Town Brook)
3. Fields which were already cleared
4. No hostile native people
5. A hill upon which they could build a fort.

**Pilgrim Fact Card 6**

**A TOUGH, SAD BEGINNING**

* The Pilgrims began to build houses onshore in Plymouth.
* Most of the people lived on the *Mayflower* while the houses were being started.
* People began to get very sick. They had pneumonia and scurvy.
* Poor food, exposure to bad weather and the stress of the voyage caused the illnesses.
* Two or three Pilgrims died every day during the first two months that they were in Plymouth.
* 47 Pilgrims died during the first year.
* Half of the *Mayflower's* crew died.
* The *Mayflower* and her crew returned to England on April 5, 1621.
* All of the colonists chose to remain in Plymouth.

**Pilgrim Fact Card 7**

**TWO CULTURES MEET**

* Samoset, a Native from the Monhegan tribe in Maine who spoke English, walked into Plymouth on March 16, 1621.
* He greeted the Pilgrims by saying, "Welcome, Englishmen! My name is Samoset."
* Samoset returned to Plymouth on March 22. He brought Massasoit with him. Massasoit was a Pokanoket Wampanoag sachem (leader).
* Governor Bradford and Massasoit signed a peace treaty.
* Squanto, the only surviving member of the Patuxet tribe, also came to visit.
* Squanto and Hobbamock lived at Plymouth Plantation. They helped the colonists to gather food, plant corn, find their way in the wilderness and to understand the native people.

**Pilgrim Fact Card 8**

**THANKSGIVING, 1621**

* In October 1621 the Pilgrims had a three-day celebration to give thanks for their first harvest.
* This celebration eventually became the holiday we know as Thanksgiving.